

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2000 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The nonnative bird species known as the mute swan is causing ecological damage to areas of the Chesapeake Bay;

WHEREAS, Reports indicate that the population of mute swans in the State has grown from 5 mute swans in 1962 to about 4,000 mute swans at present;

WHEREAS, Mute swans are aggressive birds that have forced other birds, such as least terns and black skimmers out of areas, such as Hooper's Island, where these other waterfowl naturally congregate;

WHEREAS, Reports indicate that a mute swan can eat between 8 and 9 pounds of submerged aquatic vegetation per day;

WHEREAS, Reports indicate that the mute swan population destroys between 9 and 11 million pounds of submerged aquatic vegetation per year; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

10-211.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO CONTROL THE POPULATION OF THE NONNATIVE BIRD SPECIES KNOWN AS THE MUTE SWAN.

(B) ~~(A)~~ THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION ~~SHALL~~ WHERE APPROPRIATE, MAY INCLUDE:

(1) THE MANAGED HARVEST OF ADULT MUTE SWANS; AND

(2) ~~THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SOLICIT~~ SOLICITATION OF LICENSED HUNTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGED HARVEST OF ADULT MUTE SWANS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Approved May 18, 2001.
